

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine frame comprising:

a main frame including:

an upper support member for supporting thereon a plurality of machine heads in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the upper support member having mounting holes formed in predetermined positions thereof for mounting individual ones of the machine heads; and

a lower support member for supporting thereon a plurality of hook bases, corresponding to the machine heads, in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the lower support member having substantially the same length as the upper support member; and

a pair of joint members positioned between respective opposite ends of the upper support member and the lower support member so that said upper support member and said lower support member being are positioned in substantially parallel relation to each other with a predetermined interval therebetween and integrally joined with each other via a joint member, wherein the joint members are welded to said upper support member and said lower support member; and

a pair of mutually-separated supporting leg sections for section provided separately from said main frame, said supporting leg section being attached to left and right ends, respectively, a predetermined position of said main frame to support said main frame in a substantially horizontal orientation at a predetermined height.

2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein said supporting leg section includes a pair of leg members for supporting left and right ends, respectively, of said main frame~~ further comprising a structural member for connecting between the supporting leg sections ~~members~~ to reinforce the supporting leg sections ~~members~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 5 wherein ~~individual ones of said member making up said supporting leg section are~~ said structural member is detachably assembled to the supporting leg sections by means of detachable fasteners.

7. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said supporting leg sections are welded ~~section is attached~~ to said main frame ~~by welding~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said supporting leg sections ~~section~~ is detachably attached to said main frame by means of a detachable fastener.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a sewing machine frame, said method comprising:

~~a step of~~ providing a main frame including:

an upper support member for supporting thereon a plurality of machine heads in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the upper support member having mounting holes formed in predetermined positions thereof for mounting individual ones of the machine heads; and

a lower support member for supporting thereon a plurality of hook bases, corresponding to the machine heads, in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the lower support member having substantially the same length as the upper support member; and

a pair of joint members positioned between respective opposite ends of the upper support member and the lower support member so that said upper support member and said lower support member being are positioned in substantially parallel relation to each other with a predetermined interval therebetween and integrally joined with each other via a joint member, wherein said joint members are welded to said upper support member and said lower support member;

~~a step of~~ providing a pair of mutually-separated supporting leg sections and attaching said pair of mutually-separated supporting leg sections ~~section for being attached to left and right ends, respectively, a predetermined position~~ of said main frame to support said main frame in a substantially horizontal orientation at a predetermined height;

~~a step of~~ transporting ~~each of the provided main frame and supporting leg~~ sections sections to an assembling place; and

~~a step of~~ completing said sewing machine frame by assembling said supporting leg ~~sections~~ section to the transported main frame in the assembling place.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 ~~wherein said supporting leg section includes a pair of leg members for supporting left and right ends, respectively, of said main frame, and~~ further comprising providing a structural member for connecting between the leg ~~sections~~ section to reinforce the leg ~~sections~~ section, and

wherein said ~~step of~~ transporting includes transporting ~~transports the members of~~ said supporting leg ~~sections~~ section and the structural member to the assembling place in a separated state, and said ~~step of~~ completing includes completing ~~completes~~ said sewing machine frame by assembling the structural member to said supporting leg ~~sections~~ section ~~with the members~~ in the assembling place and attaching the assembled supporting leg ~~sections~~ section and the structural member to the transported main frame.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a sewing machine frame, said method comprising:

~~a step of~~ providing a main frame including:

an upper support member for supporting thereon a plurality of machine heads in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the upper support member having mounting holes formed in predetermined positions thereof for mounting individual ones of the machine heads; and

a lower support member for supporting thereon a plurality of hook bases, corresponding to the machine heads, in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the lower support member having substantially the same length as the upper support member; and

a pair of joint members positioned between respective opposite ends of the upper support member and the lower support member so that said upper support member and said lower support member ~~being~~ are positioned in substantially parallel relation to each other with a predetermined interval therebetween, wherein the joint members are welded to the upper support member and the lower support member, and integrally joined with each other via a joint member, said ~~step of~~ providing a main frame further including providing said lower support member ~~with~~ mounting a base for mounting thereon the hook bases to the lower support member;

~~a step of~~ providing a pair of mutually-separated supporting leg sections ~~section~~ for being attached to left and right ends, respectively, ~~a predetermined position~~ of said main frame to support said main frame in a substantially horizontal orientation at a predetermined height;

~~a step of~~ transporting the provided main frame and supporting leg sections ~~section~~ to an assembling place; and

~~a step of~~ completing said sewing machine frame by assembling said supporting leg sections ~~section~~ to the transported main frame in the assembling place.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a sewing machine frame, said method comprising:

~~a step of~~ providing a main frame including:

an upper support member for supporting thereon a plurality of machine heads in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the upper support member having mounting holes formed in predetermined positions thereof for mounting individual ones of the machine heads; and

a lower support member for supporting thereon a plurality of hook bases, corresponding to the machine heads, in a substantially horizontal orientation and in juxtaposed relation to each other, the lower support member having substantially the same length as the upper support member; and

a pair of joint members positioned between respective opposite ends of the upper support member and the lower support member so that said upper support member and said lower support member ~~being~~ are positioned in substantially parallel relation to each other with a predetermined interval therebetween, wherein the joint members are welded to the upper support member and the lower support member ~~and integrally joined with each other via a joint member;~~

~~a step of~~ providing a pair of mutually-separated supporting leg sections ~~section~~ for being attached to left and right ends, respectively, ~~a predetermined position~~ of said main frame to support said main frame in a substantially horizontal orientation at a predetermined height;

~~a step of~~ attaching, to the provided main frame, component parts including the machine heads and hook bases;

~~a step of~~ transporting, to an assembling place, said main frame having the component parts attached thereto and the provided supporting leg ~~section~~ sections; and

~~a step of~~ completing said sewing machine frame by attaching said supporting leg sections ~~section~~ to the transported main frame in the assembling place.

13. (New) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 8 wherein said detachable fastener is a bolt.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said sewing machine frame is completed by assembling each of the supporting leg sections to the transported main frame by means of a bolt or other detachable fastener.

15. (New) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said sewing machine frame is completed by assembling each of the supporting leg sections to the transported main frame by means of a bolt or other detachable fastener.

16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said sewing machine frame is completed by assembling each of the supporting leg sections to the transported main frame by means of a bolt or other detachable fastener.

17. (New) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 1 wherein a base for installing the hook bases corresponding to the machine heads is fixed to a front surface of the lower support member in the main frame.

18. (New) A sewing machine frame as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of the supporting leg sections includes a first section for supporting an underside of the main frame, and a second section for supporting a vertical section of the main frame.

19. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein each of the supporting leg sections includes a first section for supporting an underside of the main frame, and a second section for supporting a vertical section of the main frame.